Page 3, after line insert the heading --Summary of the Invention--.

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Page 8, after line 31, insert the heading --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

B4

Page 13, line 12, delete "the attached patent claims and".

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice to their reentry and enter the following new claims:

C1

25. A method for securing a spacer to an implant integrated in bone, the method comprising:

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engaging a spacer and a screw with a holder in a rotationally fixed position with respect to the holder, wherein the spacer is engaged in a spacer engaging portion of the holder and the screw is engaged in a screw engaging portion of the holder;

inserting the screw in a threaded receiving passage of the implant such that threads on the screw engage threads of the receiving passage;

applying a rotational motion to the holder, thereby rotating the rotationally fixed spacer and screw and screwing the screw into the receiving passage of the implant;

establishing cooperation between a bearing surface of the spacer and a top surface of the implant at a predetermined position of screwing; and

separating the holder from the spacer and the screw.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the spacer includes a bearing surface that protrudes beyond the holder, and a threaded portion of the screw protrudes beyond the bearing surface.

27. The method according to claim 25, wherein a threaded portion of the screw extends through a recess in the spacer and a head of the screw cooperates with a tightening and locking surface on the spacer, and wherein the spacer comprises a bearing surface operable to cooperate with a top surface of the implant.

28. The method according to claim 25, further comprising:

separating the holder from the spacer and the screw by applying a separating motion to the holder, thereby exposing the screw for further tightening.

29. The method according to claim 28, wherein the separating motion is distinct from the rotational movement to screw the screw into the implant.

30. The method according to claim 25, wherein to achieve a holding function between the holder, the spacer and the screw to form a common rotationally fixed unit, the screw is arranged against a tightening and locking surface of the spacer, and then the spacer and screw are arranged in an end recess if the holder or the holder is pressed over the spacer and the screw to rotationally fix the spacer and the screw in the holder.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein the holder works with at least one of an elastic function, a spring function and a snap-in function operable to lock the spacer and the screw in a coupled position to the holder in the direction of rotation.

32. The method according to claim 30, wherein the spacer is brought into cooperation with the top surface of the implant only via an annular end surface.

33. The method according to claim 25, wherein the implant is integrated in jaw bone.

34. An arrangement operable to secure a spacer to an implant integrated in bone, the arrangement comprising:

a holder operable to engage a spacer and a screw, the holder comprising

a grip portion,

a spacer engaging portion operable to engage at least a portion of the spacer, the spacer comprising a tightening and locking surface, a bearing surface operable to cooperate with a top surface of the implant and a screw receiving passage,

a screw engaging portion operable to engage at least a portion of a head of the screw, the screw comprising a threaded portion and a head portion operable to cooperate with the tightening and locking surface of the spacer, and

wherein the holder is operable to support the screw in a position passing through the screw receiving passage of the spacer with the bearing surface of the spacer protruding beyond the holder and the threaded portion of the screw protruding beyond the bearing surface of the spacer, wherein the holder supports the screw and the spacer in a rotationally fixed position such

that the spacer and the screw can be applied to the implant in a position of cooperation between the threaded portion of the screw and a threaded portion of the implant

wherein applying a rotational force to the holder permits the threaded portion of the screw to be screwed into the threaded portion of the implant and wherein the holder is separable from the spacer and the screw by means of a separating movement to expose the screw for possible further tightening.

35. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the separation movement comprises applying a lateral force to the holder.

36. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the separation movement is distinct from the tightening movement.

37. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the screw is screwed into the implant to a position where the bearing surface of the spacer cooperates with the top surface of the implant.

38. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein at least the screw engaging portion and the spacer engaging portion comprise plastic or other elastic and/or resilient material.

39. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the holder holds the screw and the spacer in a coupled position that prevents reciprocal rotating movements between the spacer, the screw and the holder.

40. The arrangement according to claim 39, wherein the couple position is obtained from clamping or spring function and/or guide surfaces and/or a snap-in function.

41. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the screw engaging portion comprises a first recess and the spacer engaging portion comprises a second recess operable to engage at least one securing part on the spacer.

42. The arrangement according to claim 41, wherein the screw and the spacer are secured on the holder by elasticity or resilience in a wall-supporting material of the first and second recesses.

43. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the grip portion comprises an elongate part made of plastic or equivalent material.

44. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the holder is comparatively easily separable from the spacer and the screw, in their position applied in or firmly screwed to the implant, by means of a withdrawal movement which essentially coincides with the longitudinal direction of the implant or rotating movement which is distinct from the screwing movement.

45. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the spacer comprises an annular bearing surface without internal guide surfaces.

46. The arrangement according to claims 34, wherein the holder and its attachment to the spacer and the screw are arranged to permit a first anchoring contact between the top surface of the implant and the bearing surface of the spacer which eliminates the risk of loosening of the implant in the bone, and, after the holder has been removed, the screw can be tightened to obtain a second anchoring contact which is effected with a force which considerably exceeds the force for the first anchoring contact.

47. The arrangement according to claim 46, wherein the second anchoring contact is effected by means of a counterstay function in the spacer.

48. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the thread of the screw is made of relatively strong material and/or is coated with a friction-reducing coating for the purpose of improving the anchoring stress between spacer, screw and implant.

49. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein a thread diameter of the screw is substantially less than a diameter of the bearing surface of the spacer.

50. The arrangement according to claim 34, wherein a thread diameter of the screw is half the spacer bearing surface diameter.

51. The arrangement according to claim 49, wherein the diameter of the screw thread, the diameter of the bearing surface, and low-friction material and/or low-friction coating are chosen to substantially lower the coefficient of friction at the thread as it is at the bearing surface,

such that a secure counterstay can be applied against the outside of the spacer upon further tightening, despite the absence of mechanical locking via active locking surfaces between the spacer and the implant.

52. The arrangement according to claim 51, wherein the coefficient of friction is half as great.

53. An arrangement, comprising:

a spacer;

a tightening screw for an implant integrated in bone; and

a holder operable to retain the spacer and the screw for facilitating application of the spacer and screw to the implant, wherein the holder supports the spacer and the screw in a rotationally fixed manner, wherein a bearing surface of the spacer operable to bear against a top surface of the implant protrudes beyond the holder, and wherein the screw extends through the spacer and protrudes beyond the bearing surface via its threaded part.

54. The arrangement according to claim 53, wherein the holder is designed with an end recess for the spacer and the screw head.

55. The arrangement according to claim 53, wherein the spacer and the screw head assume rotationally fixed positions in the holder by virtue of the fact that the holder is made of resilient and/or elastic material at least at said recess, and the holder with resilient and/or elastic function cooperates with the spacer and the screw head.

56. The arrangement according to claim 53, wherein the rotationally fixed attachment is also effected by a snap-in function and in that, for example, the spacer is designed with nibs and/or indents for the said snap-in function.

57. The arrangement according to claim 53, wherein upon positioning the spacer and the screw in the implant, the holder can be separated from the spacer and the screw head for longitudinal displacement in the longitudinal direction of the implant and/or a tilting movement.

58. The arrangement according to claim 53, wherein the holder, the spacer and the screw form a rotationally fixed unit, by means of which the thread of the screw can be screwed into the thread of the implant by screwing movements.

59. A method for using a holder for securing a spacer with a screw in an implant, the method comprising:

supporting the spacer and the screw in a coupled state in a rotationally fixed manner in an elongate element of the holder; and

arranging a bearing surface of the spacer against a corresponding bearing surface of the implant protruding beyond the holder, and the threaded part of the screw protruding beyond the bearing surface.

60. The method according to claim 59, further comprising:

gripping a resilient and/or elastic part of the holder; and